

IT PAYS TO PUT THE HEAT ON ARSON.

ArsonWatch 
Reward program

Annually nearly 1,000 people die in arson fires. Thousands more are injured. And over \$1 billion is lost in property damage.

It's pretty frightening—and every year it gets worse, as the number and severity of fires increase.

We think it's time to do something about it—and we're willing to pay people to help us.

It's all part of a special state-wide Arson Watch Reward Program. We've set up a 24-hour Arson Watch Hotline so people can call us whenever they witness (or just suspect) an arson fire. And we've established an Arson-Watch fund, so we can pay up to \$5,000 to anyone who provides us with information which helps us prevent or detect an arson crime. (Check the rules which follow to find out exactly how the Reward Program works.)

To let people all over Rhode Island know about our program, we're putting together a comprehensive advertising campaign, using radio, television, newspapers, billboards, posters, bumper stickers and more. And we're also encouraging involvement through school programs and neighborhood task forces.

Arson is one of the fastest growing crimes in our country. And it's one of the scariest—because it destroys people and property. It's a crime we all live with. Isn't it time we did.

**Arson Watch Hotline:
401-295-9083**

**This Number
Catches Fire**

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND RULES

REPORTING AN ARSON FIRE:

Information on impending fires or fires that have already occurred should be reported to one of the following:

1. Rhode Island State Fire Marshal
24 Conway Avenue
Quonset/Davisville Industrial Park
North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852
2. Arson Watch Hotline 401-295-9083
3. Local Fire or Police Department

REWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE:

A Reward Selection Committee composed of the State Fire Marshal, a representative of the Police Chiefs Association of Rhode Island, and the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation will review all nominations and make the final decision in granting rewards.

INDIVIDUAL REWARDS:

1. All individual rewards during any given year will be determined by the Reward Selection Committee based on the extent of assistance the information provides in solving an arson crime, with a maximum of \$5,000.
2. Nominations for individual rewards must be made on a reward application form which can be obtained from:
Rhode Island State Fire Marshal
Conway Avenue
Quonset/Davisville Industrial Park
North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852
Arson Watch Hotline 401-295-9083
3. No reward application will be considered until after an indictment has been made. Where no indictment is anticipated, a reward application will be considered when deemed appropriate by the Reward Selection Committee.

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4. Nominations for individual rewards may be made by a fire chief, police chief, prosecuting attorney, State Fire Marshal, or any other person.
5. The following people are not eligible for rewards: Firefighters (both paid and nonpaid), police and other law enforcement officials, prosecutors, insurance company personnel or agents whose connections with the fire were within their normal course of employment or duties, and private fire investigators and members of their families.
6. Only information on fires which have occurred or are planned to occur in the state of Rhode Island will be considered as the basis for reward.
7. The identity of the nominee may be withheld by the nominator or by the Reward Selection Committee if any of the following are true:
 - a. At the request of the nominee,
 - b. If the possibility exists that the nominee might suffer direct physical harm or suffer from acts of retribution by the release and public knowledge of the nominee's identity.
 - c. If the release of the nominee's identity might jeopardize a beneficial relationship between the nominee and fire service, law enforcement or criminal justice systems.
 - d. If the release of the nominee's identity will tend to have a detrimental effect on the public or private investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for arson,
 - e. If in the judgment of the nominator or the Reward Selection Committee, the release of the nominee's identity is not necessary or advisable.

If it is decided to maintain the anonymity of the nominee, the nominator shall arbitrarily select a seven-digit number and enter that number in the nominee portion of the reward application form for identification purposes.

8. No promises to pay a nominee will be made and no agency or individual has the authority to promise a nominee he/she will be paid. The program is strictly voluntary and any person who feels a reward will hinder a case in any way can choose not to participate.

9. The decision of the Reward Selection Committee will be binding in all matters relating to rewards.

GROUP REWARDS:

1. Group awards will be in the form of a plaque only.
2. Nominees may include, but need not be limited to, fire departments, police departments, educational institutions, insurance companies or any civic, community, or other organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to arson prevention or arson education.
3. Nominations may be made by any duly elected official of any political subdivision of the state, state legislators, insurance industry representatives, prosecutors, or any other person.
4. Nominations should be made in the form of a letter to the Reward Selection Committee which states why the nominee should be considered for special recognition in the field of arson prevention or education.
5. The decision of the Reward Selection Committee will be binding in all matters relating to this award.

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